

Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJ: SPATE OF CIA ACTIVITIES IN DANISH PRESS

SUMMARY: RECENT "REVELATIONS" AND INVESTIGATIONS ABOUT
CIA IN THE US PRESS AND CONGRESS HAVE LED TO ATTEMPTS TO
DIG UP SO-CALLED "HISTORY OF CIA ACTIVITIES IN DENMARK".

DANISH PUBLICATIONS ARE AIRING ALLEGED 1958 BUGGING OF DANISH
COMMUNIST PARTY, ALTHOUGH SOME EDITORIALISTS HAVE BEGUN TO
REALIZE DANGER OF TOO MUCH PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF INTELLIGENCE
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ACTIVITY. END SUMMARY.

1. OVER LAST FEW DAYS A SERIES OF ARTICLES HAVE APPEARED IN DANISH PRESS BASED ON CHRISTMAS DAY BROADCAST ON DANISH RADIO BY ITS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT CHRISTIAN WINTHER, WHO CLAIMED THAT "HIGH-RANKING DANISH POLITICIAN" HAD ASSERTED THAT IN 1958 CIA AGENTS USED LISTENING DEVICES IN THE RESIDENCE OF ALFRED JENSEN, FORMER VICE PRESIDENT OF DANISH COMMUNIST PARTY (DKP). THIS ALLEGATION WILL BE AIRED IN PARLIAMENT AT THE REQUEST OF GERT PETERSEN, A FORMER MEMBER OF THE DANISH COMMUNIST PARTY AND NOW LEADER OF THE FAR-LEFT SOCIALIST PEOPLES PARTY IN THE FOLKETING.

2. WINTHER WOULD NOT IDENTIFY HIS "HIGH-RANKING POLITICIAN" BUT ONE NEWSPAPER CLAIMS THAT THE SOURCE IS FORMER PRMIN JENS OTTO KRAG WHO WAS IN WASHINGTON UNTIL MID-DECEMBER AS EEC REPRESENTATIVE. (KRAG WAS UNAVAILABLE FOR COMMENT SINCE HE IS ON AN AFRICAN SAFARI.) ACCORDING TO RECENT NEWSPAPER REPORTS, INFORMATION OBTAINED BY LISTENING TO CONVERSATIONS WHICH TOOK PLACE IN JENSEN'S APARTMENT WAS USED TO SOW THE DISRUPTION IN THE DKP WHICH LED TO ITS SPLIT AND THE FORMATION OF THE SF IN THE LATE 1950'S.

3. PETERSEN HAS PUT A PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION TO THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE ASKING IF THE MINISTRY CAN CONFIRM THE TRUTH OF THE ASSERTIONS REGARDING CIA INVOLVEMENT IN DENMARK'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. IF THE MINISTRY IS NOT IN POSSESSION OF SUCH MATERIAL, PETERSEN SAYS HE WILL ASK IT TO EXAMINE THE REASON FOR THE APPEARANCE OF SUCH REPORTS IN THE PRESS.

4. PETERSEN ASSERTED, IN EXPLAINING HIS PARLIAMENTARY ACTION, THAT THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT THE STATE IS OBLIGED TO TAKE MEASURES AGAINST FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES WHICH SPY ON AND LISTEN TO CONVERSATIONS IN DANISH CITIZENS' DWELLINGS.

5. JUSTICE MINISTER MOLLER COMMENTED TO ONE REPORTER THAT THE "TALE SOUNDS FANTASTIC, THOUGH PERHAPS NOT IMPOSSIBLE IN 1958". HOWEVER, HE SAID HE COULD GUARANTEE THATSUCH ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TODAY. MOLLER WENT ON TO SAY A REPLY WOULD BE MADE IN PARLIAMENT BUT HE DID NOT FEEL THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EITHER HE OR THE DANISH INTELLIGENCE SERVICE WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO DISCLOSE EVERYTHING KNOWN ABOUT 1958 EVENTS.

6. "INFORMATION" EDITORIAL DEC. 30 RIDICULES CLAIM THAT CIA IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SPLIT IN DANISH COMMUNIST PARTY (DKP) LEADING TO CREATION OF MARXIST NATIONALIST SF PARTY. IT NOTES THAT DANISH INTELLIGENCE WAS WELL AWARE OF PROBLEMS WITHIN DKP BETWEEN COMMUNIST REFORMERS AND MOSCOW HARD-LINERS.

LAND OG FOLK (COMMUNIST PAPER) SAYS THAT 1958 EPISODE IS ONLY TIP OF ICEBERG AND REQUESTS FAR-REACHING INVESTIGATION OF "CIA ACTIVITIES".

7. COMMENT: THIS INCIDENT IS NOT PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT IN ITSELF, BUT REFLECTS TENDENCY FOR SOME DANISH CIRCLES TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON ALLEGED FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES IN DENMARK AT A TIME WHEN CIA ACTIVITIES ABROAD ARE MAKING HEADLINES IN US PRESS. RESPONSIBLE DANES HAVE BEGUN TO REALIZE DANGERS INHERENT IN SUCH PUBLIC DEBATE, PARTICULARLY WHEN HUMAN LIVES ARE AT STAKE, BUT SO LONG AS US PRESS CONTINUES TO FOCUS ON THIS SUBJECT, IT IS PROBABLY INEVITABLE THAT DANISH MEDIA WILL TRY TO DO SAME HERE.
DEAN

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